

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 1 1. A method for a media agent to monitor multiple broadcast transmissions, each
2 broadcast transmission containing media content, comprising:
3 identifying the broadcast transmissions to be monitored;
4 establishing connections with the identified broadcast transmissions;
5 identifying, for each connected broadcast transmission, at least one characteristic
6 of the media content associated with the connected broadcast transmission; and
7 maintaining the association between the identified at least one characteristic of
8 the media content and the connected broadcast transmission.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the broadcast transmissions are composed of
2 streaming audio data.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the broadcast transmissions are transmitted over
2 the Internet.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of identifying the at least one
2 characteristic of media content is accomplished through the use of pattern recognition
3 scheme.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the pattern recognition scheme examines the
2 audio portion of the media content.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of identifying the at least one
2 characteristic of the media content associated with each connected broadcast
3 transmission is accomplished with metadata.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 terminating the connection to the identified broadcast transmissions after the
3 step of identifying the at least one characteristic of the media content is complete; and
4 wherein the step of establishing connections with the identified broadcast
5 transmissions is not performed simultaneously for all broadcast transmissions.

1 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
2 re-establishing, when a transition in media content is expected, connections to
3 the identified broadcast transmissions whose connections were terminated.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the expected transition in media content is based
2 on a duration of the media content.

- 1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 presenting the at least one characteristic of the media content to a user for each
3 connected broadcast transmission.
- 1 11. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
2 receiving a selection of one of the at least one characteristic of the media content
3 from among all the at least one characteristic of the media contents presented to the
4 user; and
5 causing the user to receive the broadcast transmission associated with the
6 selected at least one characteristic of the media content.
- 1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one characteristic of the media
2 content is a musical genre.
- 1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one characteristic of the media
2 content is a title of a song.
- 1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one characteristic of the media
2 content is a name of an artist.
- 1 15. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving preferred media content parameters from a user.

1 16. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
2 determining whether the at least one characteristic of the media content
3 associated with each connected broadcast transmission is within the preferred media
4 content parameters; and
5 presenting a notification to the user when the at least characteristic of the media
6 content associated with each connected broadcast transmission is determined to be
7 within the preferred media content parameters.

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1 17. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
2 determining whether the at least one characteristic of the media content
3 associated with each connected broadcast transmission is within the preferred media
4 content parameters; and
5 causing the user to receive the broadcast transmission associated with the certain
6 type of characteristic when the at least one characteristic of the media content associated
7 with each connected broadcast transmission is determined to be within the preferred
8 media content parameters.

1 18. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
2 determining whether the at least one characteristic of the media content
3 associated with each connected broadcast transmission is within the preferred media
4 content parameters; and
5 recording the broadcast transmission associated with the certain type of
6 characteristic when the at least characteristic of the media content associated with each
7 connected broadcast transmission is determined to be within the preferred media
8 content parameters.

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1 **21.** The method of claim 15, wherein the step of classifying broadcast transmissions
2 is accomplished through a historical analysis of characteristics of media content
3 associated with each broadcast transmission to be classified.

1 **22.** A method comprising the steps of:
2 selecting a group of broadcast transmissions to be monitored, each broadcast
3 transmission containing media content; and
4 repeating, for each broadcast transmissions in the group of broadcast
5 transmissions, the steps of
6 establishing a connection to the broadcast transmissions; and
7 identifying characteristics of the media content contained in the connected
8 broadcast transmissions through an analysis of the connected broadcast transmissions.

1 **23.** The method of claim 17, further comprising:
2 presenting the identified characteristics of the media contents to a user.

1 **24.** The method of claim 18, further comprising:
2 receiving from the user a selection from among the identified characteristics of
3 the media contents presented to the user; and
4 causing the user to receive the broadcast transmission that is associated with the
5 selection.

1 **25.** The method of claim 17, further comprising:
2 receiving from the user a selection of preferred media content parameters;
3 determining whether the identified characteristics of each media content is
4 within the preferred media content parameters; and
5 notifying the user when the identified characteristics of a media content is
6 identified as being contained in a broadcast transmission within the group of broadcast
7 transmissions.

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1 **26.** A media agent comprising:
2 a user interface for a user to identify, either directly or indirectly, a plurality of
3 broadcast transmissions;
4 a network interface for receiving the plurality of identified broadcast
5 transmissions from a network;
6 a media decoder for decoding each broadcast transmission received from the
7 network; and
8 a monitoring module for identifying at least one characteristic of the decoded
9 broadcast transmission.

1 **27.** The media agent of claim 26, wherein:
2 the user interface presents the at least one characteristic of the decoded broadcast
3 transmission to the user.

- 1 **28.** The media agent of claim 27, wherein the monitoring module is additionally for
- 2 associating the identified at least one characteristic of the media content with the
- 3 broadcast transmission received from the network.